

OHA deciding official. Such interrogatories and requests for admission must be drawn with the purpose of defining the issues in dispute between the parties and facilitating the presentation of evidence at the hearing. Answers must be served upon the party propounding the written interrogatories or requesting the admission of facts and documents within 30 days from the date of service of such interrogatories or requests, or within such other period of time as may be agreed upon by the parties or prescribed by the OHA deciding official. A copy of the answer must be filed with the OHA deciding official. Within 10 days after written interrogatories are served upon a party, that party may serve cross-interrogatories for answer by the witness to be interrogated.

**§4.223 Objections to and limitations on production of documents, depositions, and interrogatories.**

The OHA deciding official, upon motion timely made by any party in interest, proper notice, and good cause shown, may direct that proceedings under §§4.220, 4.221, and 4.222 may be conducted only under, and in accordance with, such limitation as he or she deems necessary and appropriate as to documents, time, place, and scope. The OHA deciding official may act on his or her own motion only if undue delay, dilatory tactics, and unreasonable demands are made so as to delay the orderly progress of the proceeding or cause unacceptable hardship upon a party or witness.

**§4.224 Failure to comply with orders.**

In the event of the failure of a party to comply with a request for the production of a document under §4.220; or on the failure of a party to appear for examination under §4.221 or on the failure of a party to respond to interrogatories or requests for admissions under §4.222; or on the failure of a party to comply with an order of the OHA deciding official issued under §4.223 without, in any of such events, showing an excuse or explanation satisfactory to the OHA deciding official for such failure, the OHA deciding official may:

(a) Decide the fact or issue relating to the material requested to be produced, or the subject matter of the probable testimony, in accordance with the claims of the other party in interest or in accordance with other evidence available to the OHA deciding official; or

(b) Make such other ruling as the OHA deciding official determines just and proper.

**§4.225 Prehearing conference.**

The OHA deciding official may, upon his or her own motion or upon the request of any party in interest, call upon the parties to appear for a conference to:

(a) Simplify or clarify the issues;

(b) Obtain stipulations, admissions, agreements on documents, understandings on matters already of record, or similar agreements which will avoid unnecessary proof;

(c) Limit the number of expert or other witnesses in avoidance of excessively cumulative evidence;

(d) Effect possible agreement disposing of all or any of the issues in dispute; and

(e) Resolve such other matters as may simplify and shorten the hearing.

HEARINGS

SOURCE: 66 FR 67656, Dec. 31, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

**§4.230 Authority and duties of the OHA deciding official.**

The authority of the OHA deciding official in all hearings in estate proceedings includes, but is not limited to authority:

(a) To administer oaths and affirmations;

(b) To issue subpoenas under the provisions of 25 U.S.C. 374 upon his or her own initiative or within his or her discretion upon the request of any party in interest, to any person whose testimony he or she believes to be material to a hearing. Upon the failure or refusal of any person upon whom a subpoena has been served to appear at a hearing or to testify, the OHA deciding official may file a petition in the appropriate U.S. District Court for the